Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The School of Information Sciences (SIS)
The University of Tennessee

And

The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System on behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and its School of Information Studies (SOIS)

And

East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS)
Makerere University

"If we are to maintain our place at the forefront of world's institutions of learning, we must truly be universities and colleges of the world. To make this claim we must internationalize our mission—our learning, discovery and engagement…"

(The National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, Task Force on International Education)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into between the three parties: East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS) at
Makerere University, the School of Information Sciences (SIS) at the University of Tennessee (UT) and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System on behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and its School of Information Studies (SOIS) as follows:

**PREAMBLE**

To further the progressive mission of the three institutions, the East African School of Library and Information Science, The School of Information Sciences, and the School of Information Studies have embarked on a plan for collaboration and partnership with an emphasis on infusing each others' programs with intercultural/international experiences that span their teaching, research and service goals. Each will give thoughtful consideration on integrating cross-cultural/international content and perspectives in all their joint initiatives. The project is proactive and action oriented, and recognizes that through understanding our cultural differences and similarities a platform for collaboration can be achieved. Each academic program brings to bear the core values of library and information professions particularly as they relate to diversity, intercultural dialogue and international literacies, as well as its commitment to the preservation and transmission of the cultural record and records of scientific investigation.

Specific values and assumptions which underlie and form the basis for the collaboration and partnership between the three institutions include the following beliefs:

1. The value of sharing resources and of promoting equal access to information in a noncompetitive context.
2. The importance of intellectual and academic freedom.
3. The need for cultural sensitivity, cross-cultural perspectives, and learning as a means to promote a global knowledge society, understanding between people, and work toward peace and social justice.
4. The need for respect and tolerance of individual differences and of diversity in a democratic society.
5. The ability of the individual to make a difference; to impact and improve our quality of life.
6. The importance of human creativity, innovation, and positive social change.
7. The value of an interdisciplinary, global, and cross-cultural perspective on education.
8. The importance of an active, participatory approach to education at the graduate level, where students assume a leadership role in directing their own educational experiences.
9. The value of information technology and telecommunications to network people across distances to build virtual communities and facilitate distance learning.
10. The value of managing information and knowledge, with a shared leadership and a common vision, to promote innovation and change in higher education and society at large.

**Background**
In 2004, the University of Tennessee launched an International and Intercultural Awareness Initiative to increase the global competency of faculty and to help students think more broadly about their place in today’s pluralistic world. On September 29 of that year, the UT School of Information Sciences established a three-year partnership with the East African School of Library and Information Sciences at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, that established formal cooperative ties between the two schools. Entitled, “Pursuing Academic Excellence Across Boarders: The EASLIS/SIS Mutual Development Project,” the purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding was to promote the sharing of knowledge, exchange of information and experiences, and mutually agreeable initiatives that would support and strengthen the educational and research goals of both schools. The MOU was signed by the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, the Vice Chancellor of UT, and the Directors of both programs. The development of this partnership was also announced at the annual meeting of the Association for Library and Science Education in 2005 in Boston. The Directors of both EASLIS and SIS appeared together at the podium to present their shared vision of and goals for the partnership.

The general focus of the MOU was to promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences that strengthen the educational and research goals of both schools and to address the growing but fundamental need for librarians to have skills and experiences in multicultural environments. The schools share a common vision and commitment to offer their expertise to their communities, particularly in the areas of national and international information policy.

Specific areas of cooperation identified in the MOU included research, education, and service components. The MOU supported the formal exchange of academic staff workshops and the possibility of more formal exchange programs as funding becomes available. Over the past three years, academic staff from SIS visited EASLIS to discuss future projects and to participate in education, research, and policy workshops. Academic staff from EASLIS similarly visited SIS to conduct workshops on relevant Library and Information Science (LIS) topics.

Research Collaboration

One of the main purposes of the MOU was to encourage the faculties of both schools to collaborate on joint research projects. Initial research plans included investigating the role of information and communications in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS; the relationship between information and communication technologies (ICT’s) and development; and national and international information policy. Specifically, selected faculty and students from both schools were involved in ongoing research to investigate the role of information and information agencies in Uganda’s successful efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. The results documented Uganda’s unique approach to the crisis of HIV/AIDS which could serve as a model for other countries to follow. The SIS-EASLIS collaboration on this topic was very successful, producing important results that were presented at the National AIDS Conference in Kampala in
2005 and published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at professional conferences. The research also resulted in two collaborative grant submissions to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Both SIS and EASLIS academic staff were listed as co-principal investigators for the NIH submissions.

Additional collaborative research investigated LIS educational models for Sub-Saharan Africa. The SIS-EASLIS team critically evaluated existing LIS curricula in Africa, the results of which suggested that African LIS programs are based on Western models that do not account for the cultural aspects of African societies. Important considerations, such as the use of oral tradition, have been overlooked in African LIS education. The results of this investigation were presented at the American Society for Information Science & Technology annual meeting in 2006.

LIS Education

The MOU also made provisions for collaboration in LIS education. Areas of cooperation were identified and included the exchange of academic staff and students, the development of LIS Education, in general, and the development of EASLIS's distance education capacity.

The academic staff of EASLIS and SIS participated on several occasions in the comparison of their LIS curriculums, including the development of courses and potential delivery of distance education. Both schools face the task of educating students who for a variety of reasons cannot attend classes on campus. EASLIS has the potential to reach out beyond the borders of Uganda and educate information professionals throughout Africa. Students at both schools could benefit from instruction provided by academic staff at both schools.

A joint staff meeting was attempted in April 2006 to test the connectivity between the two schools. While the connectivity presented technical problems that ruled out the immediate possibility of distance classes, both schools expressed interest in continuing to pursue this goal over time.

Service and Policy

The partnership was also designed to support the imperative shared by EASLIS and SIS to provide informed and professional service to their communities and to the citizens of their respective countries. The faculties of both schools regarded the provision of services on the basis of their expertise to be an obligation. Workshops were held on issues of national and international importance, particularly in the area of intellectual property policy. Both SIS and EASLIS are also committed to protecting intellectual property and fair use, such as traditional knowledge and folklore, while also attracting investment and thus wealth for their countries. The MOU specified the goal of contributing to a greater understanding of the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) intellectual property regime; to contribute to informed property agreements; and to contribute to the development of intellectual property legislation in Uganda.
This MOU supplants the previous partnership agreement between UT and Makerere University, due to expire in September 2007, and includes a new partner—The School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM). UWM will make significant contributions to the partnership especially in helping to expand activities to a wider region within the African continent. UWM also brings to the table strength in a number of topical areas relevant to the social, economic and political landscape of Africa. These include:

- Indigenous knowledge
- Literacy and more specific information and e-literacy
- Information poverty
- Health informatics
- Cross language information retrieval
- Information policy, including legal and ethical issues
- Security and IT
- Information corruption

We also anticipate that UWM will play a key role in examining a new technological and economic paradigm that creates opportunities for LIS collaboration not only in Africa, but globally.

Article I

Institutional Data:

1. Project Title: Cross-cultural collaborative project for LIS education

2. Expected Starting Date: September 2007

3. Duration: Three years from the date of this MOU is fully executed, with possible renewal based on each party’s written consent.

4. Areas of Cooperative Activity: The areas of intended cooperation shall include:
   a) Teaching and curriculum development
   b) Funded research and new revenue streams
   c) Special projects and service initiatives
   d) Publications and presentations
   e) Development of new products and processes

5. Action Plan:
The MOU will be inaugurated in August at the 2007 conference of the International Federation of Library Association in Durban, South Africa. Within fields that are mutually acceptable, the following general forms of cooperation will be pursued:

Exchange of students, including internships and study abroad programs;

2. Exchange of faculty members for purposes of research, lectures, and seminars/symposia;

3. Joint research activities.

Arrangements for specific visits, exchanges, and other forms of cooperation will be developed jointly and will be mutually agreed upon for each specific case. With the approval of all three parties, other individual and institutional affiliated collaborations may be established to further the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding. The terms of the MOU will be reviewed annually and a progress report will made by the member universities.

No monetary consideration will be exchanged between the three universities. The agreement does not create and will not imply any financial obligation by any of the institutions. All parties understand that any and all financial arrangements will have to be negotiated between the parties, agreed upon in writing, and will depend on, among other things, the availability of funds.

6. Names and Contact Address of the Collaborating Institutions:

Dr. Edwin-Michael Cortez, Professor & Director
The University of Tennessee
School of Information Sciences
1345 Circle Park Drive
451 Communications Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-0341
Email: ecortez@utk.edu
Tel: 865.974.2148
Fax: 865.974.4967

Dr. Elisam Magara, Director
East African School of Library and Information Science
Makerere University
P.O. Box 7062
Kampala, Uganda
Email: direct@easlis.mak.ac.ug
Tel: 256-41-53530
Fax: 256-41-540817

Dr. Johannes Britz, Dean
7. Project Staffing/Personnel

Administrative and clerical personnel at the three institutions may support the chief coordinators and faculty involved in the project as mutually agreed by the parties in writing in the future or as the parties deem appropriate in their sole discretion.

7. Chief Coordinators

Dr. Edwin-Michael Cortez, Director of SIS; Dr. Johannes Britz, Dean of SOIS; and Dr. I.M.N. Kigongo-Bukenya, Professor, EASLIS, shall be the chief coordinators of the project, with authority to delegate to faculty and staff at their respective institutions.

Article II

Funding of the Project

At this time, the East African School of Library and Information Science at Makerere University, the School of Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee, and the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee come together in a spirit of cooperation and each party will contribute funds to the project as they deem appropriate in their sole discretion. A major goal of this collaboration is to provide a basis for seeking external funding from national governments and national and international public and private organizations to continue to fund and develop the partnership.

Duration

This Agreement will be valid for a period of three years from the date of final signature by the three parties; provided, however, that any party may terminate this Agreement with or without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice to the non-terminating parties.

For the University of Tennessee

Dr. Loren W. Crabtree
Chancellor
For the University of Tennessee

Dr. Loren W. Crabtree
Chancellor
Sign: [Signature] Date: 8/21/07

Dr. Edwin-Michael Cortez
Director and Professor
Sign: [Signature] Date: 10/05/07

For the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, on behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System.

Dr. Rita Cheng
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Sign: [Signature] Date: 11/30/07

Dr. Johannes Britz
Dean and Professor
Sign: [Signature] Date: 11/30/07

For Makerere University

Professor Livingstone S. Luboobi
Vice Chancellor
Sign: [Signature] Date: 20.09.07

Associate Professor Elisam Magara
Director
Sign: [Signature] Date: 17/09/07